

Notes from SPAN Teleconference 10-13-10 (2:00 – 3:00 p.m. EST)

SPAN Participants

Danielle Carlin, Heather Henry (NIEHS); Justin Crane (MDB); Xabier Arzuaga (USEPA); Courtney Kozul (Dartmouth); Katryn Eske (Univ. of Kentucky); Luis Rivera, Lauren Tetz (Univ. of Michigan); Sarah Allen (Oregon State University); Gabriele Ludwig (Univ. of Iowa); Raina Maier (Univ. of Arizona); Pamela Mellon, Bill Brockett (UC Berkeley); **Seya (need to know if first name spelled correctly and need last name) (UCSD); Hiram Sarabia representative for Keith Pazolli (please list affiliation); representatives from Puerto Rico (please add the members listening in from your group and their affiliations)**

Items that need corrected or more information in red

Action items are shown in blue and are in bold

AGENDA

- Introductions: Sarah Allan (OSU) will be the SPAN trainee representative at the SRP annual meeting. She will serve as a point of contact for other trainees for questions pertaining to the trainee events scheduled at the meeting. She will also be highlighted in the e-posted notes newsletter. Sarah will be available at the annual meeting starting Thursday, November 11.
- Annual Meeting Update
 - November 10-12, Location: The Nines, 525 SW Morrison, Portland, Oregon 97204
 - Website: <http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/event/superfund2010/index.html>
 - Agenda: Draft agenda is available on the website listed above.
 - Abstracts were due Friday, October 8th. Room reservations for the Nines at the group rate are no longer available. They are now \$229 or meeting attendees will have to make reservations at other nearby hotels. **Heather made the suggestion that if you are interested in sharing a room with someone, please visit the SPAN facebook page to find others that are looking for roommates (www.facebook.com/SRPSPAN); Click on the "Events" tab and select the SRP annual meeting).**
 - Trainee Events:
 - IceBreaker – Wednesday evening, (November 10th at 6:00 p.m.); approximately 30 people; this event will be held at the hotel and may include drink/ hors d'oeuvre specials. **A casual invitation will be sent to trainees regarding this event.** This event will take place before the Research Translation "Film Festival" (at ~7:30 p.m.).
 - Guest speaker: possible Congressman Blumenauer is interested in talking with trainees; back-up: Principal Investigator to discuss publishing manuscripts and review articles; also looking for 3 post-doc volunteers from Oregon State University willing to share their writing experiences).
 - Trainee Social Event: Thursday evening (November 11th 6:30 p.m.) at a local restaurant where trainees can meet, greet, and eat. **Sandy will locate a restaurant with an extra room for approximately 30 people.**
 - Poster sessions (update from Beth Anderson); mixing of biomedical and non-biomedical posters.

1. It still needs to be decided by the meeting planning committee whether or not the biomedical and non-biomedical posters will be mixed or separated.
- Trainee breakfast with PIs
 1. In our previous SPAN teleconference, Courtney had suggested that more PIs need to be encouraged to attend the Trainee/PI breakfast. At last year's meeting, there were more students than PIs. **An announcement will be made at the meeting to encourage the PIs to attend.**
 2. Approximately 50 people will attend the breakfast.
 - Training Core Leader Lunch with Danielle Carlin and Heather Henry: Friday, November 12th at 12:30 p.m.; location TBD (at hotel)
 - **Heather suggested that we have stickers available to place on SPAN committee members name tags. This will provide a way to have those members stand out in the crowd and help to promote SPAN.**
- Other items for discussion...
 - Facebook SPAN page: (Justin Crane) Please visit the SPAN Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/SRPSPAN) to find important meeting updates and to connect with other SRP trainees. To view the SPAN Facebook page, you do not have to have a Facebook account, however, to post to the page you will have to create one.
 - **SRP will develop a handout for the annual meeting that will contain information about the SPAN Facebook page.**
 - With time and continuous advertisement of the SPAN Facebook page, it should grow in popularity.
 - Ways to increase SPAN membership.
 - A question was raised as to whether all members of SPAN will be on future teleconferences. The goal of SRP is to see SPAN have student/post-doc representatives from each university and each of these members forms the SPAN committee. In other words, only those on the SPAN committee will take part on future SPAN teleconferences, but for right now, we are trying to find representatives from each university.
 - Career Trac 3: NIEHS is currently working on a software program called Career Trac 3 which will help SRP to better follow trainees during their experience in a SRP funded program. We will also be following them throughout the transition from academic and post-doctoral work to their professional transitions. This tool will help us better analyze the trainee experience within the SRP, to better analyze the program as a whole, and to find ways of improving the experience for trainees.
 - SRP Traineeship: SRP is in the process of developing a traineeship to provide translational/transdisciplinary experiences for trainees. SRP program staff are thinking about having this a short-term traineeship with opportunities for students/post-docs to perform work at other institutions (academic/government). **More details will follow at the SRP Annual Meeting.**
 - Input about further defining SPAN's role and how to make SPAN more useful to trainees/alumni.
 - **Danielle has requested that SPAN members and Training Core leaders get together to discuss this topic at the Annual meeting.**
 - Danielle has contacted the Training Core Leaders by e-mail to see if they are interested in discussing many of the above listed topics at the Annual meeting. **We**

would like to get their input on these ideas listed in these notes, get their involvement, and help promote SPAN.

- Determining if and how mentors tell trainees about SRP and SPAN when they are either interviewing or new to the position.
 - SRP will develop materials (a handout/pamphlet) for new trainees when they begin their position (e.g., funding opportunities, goals of SRP, etc) so that they may become more familiar with SRP.
- A handout will be developed and given out at this Annual SRP meeting telling attendees what SPAN is about. The suggestion was also made for SRP to have a poster about SPAN at the Annual Meeting, which will be implemented.
- Webinar series for trainees/alumni (open to all of SRP trainees, alumni, mentors, EPA, ATSDR, etc) to achieve more national exposure of research supported by SRP. This seminar series will not overlap with Risk e-learning and ATSDR seminars.
 - SRP will develop a series of seminars (4 per year) with a mixture of alumni and current trainees.
 - We will start by asking this year's Witterhahn Award Winner and Poster Competition winners to give a seminar, and we will ask the poster judges to also make recommendations for speakers based upon the posters at the Annual meeting.
- Updated list of SPAN members and all SRP trainees/alumni
 - Justin said that the list for all SRP trainees/alumni will be sent to the Program Directors on October 15th, 2010 and will be due by December, 15th 2010.
 - SRP will also post the training core leaders on the SRP website. This can be used as a networking tool for the Training Core Leaders. SRP is working on a list of SPAN members.
- Future Teleconferences: Quarterly conference calls with Training Core Leaders starting in January (then April, July, and late September or early October before the annual meeting; need to decide topics of discussion); Two – three teleconferences per year for SPAN committee members to discuss the Annual Meeting Trainee events and the Webinar series.